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# THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL

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## Editorial

### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The third annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South will be held in Chicago on Friday and Saturday, March 29 and 30, 1907. The circulars of the secretary of the Association and of the Local Committee, which will be sent out within the next ten days, will contain the programme in its final form and an account of the arrangements that have been made for reduced railway rates and for the entertainment of the visiting members. The provisional programme is published on p. 225 of this number of the *Journal*.

The two previous meetings of the Association have been well attended, but the attendance has not on either occasion shown more than 25 per cent. of the full strength of the Association. It is not, of course, possible for everyone to come, but we believe that a meeting twice as large as that held in Chicago in 1905 or the St. Louis meeting of 1906 is easily within the means and energy of the members of the Association. Once a month through the columns of this *Journal* you are offered advice and instruction on divers subjects connected with our profession. You are told how to teach first-year Latin and second-year Latin; you are urged to sanity in pedagogy; you are given hints on the teaching of Caesar and Cicero; you are instructed how to read Latin poetry and how not to read it; you are told what you must do to save Greek; you read reviews of your own books or of the books of others, with the sympathy born of kindness of heart when the review is sharp, with the skepticism born of the

critical spirit when the review is favorable; occasionally you even hear the wail of the reviewed. All this is excellent; it forms a veritable *cena dubia*. But it is not from any of these texts that we would preach now. Our exhortation is along a wholly new line; we urge you to form the peripatetic habit, to go the rounds of the meetings and conferences, to hear what others have to say, and, even if you do not read a paper yourself, to let those who do have the benefit of your criticism if you are doubtful about the soundness of their theories, or of your commendation if you approve of them. You may always be certain that the man who reads the paper is not nearly so sure of the correctness of his views as he would have you believe, and your criticism or your commendation may prevent or insure the publication of his theory. No one who attends a meeting is without his influence. Yes, even the stony glare of the brother who never speaks has its place in the scheme of things.

The Local Committee will do everything in its power to make the social side of the meeting attractive. With due respect for those who are to take part in the programme, we must frankly recognize the fact that the papers and discussions are not the most important part of the meeting. We are not in favor of going to such lengths as do some learned societies, the members of which assemble in large numbers on the first morning of the meeting, elect their officers and transact other business, read all their papers by title, and then adjourn for a series of luncheons and dinners interrupted only by such discussions as may be regarded as conducive to digestion, and which naturally take the form of amiable demonstrations of the utter absurdity of the views advanced in the latest books and articles published by members of their order who have committed the tactical error of not being present. We do not approve of this plan in all its details, but we commend the social spirit which is so prominent in it. It is incontestable that what one gets at these meetings by coming in personal contact with fellow-workers is worth more than the theories of countless papers.

## THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

The paid-up membership of the Association now stands as follows:

Alabama . . . . .	7	Missouri . . . . .	89
Arkansas . . . . .	3	Nebraska . . . . .	32
Colorado . . . . .	10	North Dakota . . . . .	7
Illinois . . . . .	183	Ohio . . . . .	83
Indiana . . . . .	62	Oklahoma . . . . .	8
Iowa . . . . .	92	South Dakota . . . . .	8
Kansas . . . . .	36	Tennessee . . . . .	21
Kentucky . . . . .	17	Texas . . . . .	20
Louisiana . . . . .	8	West Virginia . . . . .	6
Michigan . . . . .	138	Wisconsin . . . . .	86
Minnesota . . . . .	47		—
Mississippi . . . . .	17	Total . . . . .	980

These figures show an increase of 194 over those published at this time last year, and both officers and members have reason to be pleased at the success of their efforts. The majority of the new members have been secured through the activity of the officers of the Association, but large additions to the lists have also been made through the co-operation of individual members who sent to the secretary the names of persons who they thought would be interested in the organization and in the *Journal*.

Yet, gratifying as the present status of the Association is, much still remains to be done in the way of promotion. As we have said before (*Class. Jour.* I, p. 66), we believe that the greatest hope of future development lies in closer relations with the various state classical conferences. One need only turn to pp. 229-35 of this number of the *Journal* in order to realize the possibilities of these local meetings. From our personal knowledge of the work done by many of the Vice-Presidents we are confident that they would be not only able but willing to establish relations of close affiliation with those local conferences that are already organized, and to form sections in the states where no definite organization now exists.

We venture also to suggest another method of increasing our strength, namely the appointment for each state of a membership committee, consisting of a considerable number of men representing the most important centers. The members of this committee would work with or under the direction of the local Vice-President, their

part being to bring the aims of the organization before the classical teachers whom they know personally or whom they are able to reach through mutual friends.

However, these are matters which must be discussed and decided by the Executive Committee. But, whatever methods are decided upon, one thing is certain: We need more members. The influence of the Association should be made to reach every corner of the territory. That it should do so is in the interest of classical studies, and incidentally an increased membership means a larger *Journal* and a lower fee.

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#### THE ENGLISH OF THE LATIN PROSE BOOKS

In our recent examination of Latin prose-composition books we were struck by one feature that seemed common to a considerable number of them, namely, the extremely awkward, sometimes even faulty, English used in the sentences given for translation into Latin. In consideration of the fact that we classical teachers are in the habit of maintaining that one of the advantages of the study of Latin and Greek is the training which it gives in the precise use of language, in effectiveness of expression, and in a sense of form, the occurrence and recurrence of inapposite words, vagrant phrases, and wabbly, staggering periods cannot but cause surprise. Some of the sentences inevitably remind one of the kind of English which inexperienced students use in the recitation room when they are translating Latin. Indeed, the reason in both cases seems to be the same. The student is dominated by the form of the Latin sentence before him, and, as a result, his translation is not so much native English as a hastily naturalized Latin; while the maker of the textbook, thinking in Latin, perhaps, or wishing to give the student a hint as to the construction which should be used, commits the same offense. And offense it certainly is. The habit of a faulty or an alien English would be too high a price for school children to pay for even so desirable an asset as a knowledge of Latin grammar. Teachers should protest against the introduction into their classrooms of any exercise book that is open to criticism in this respect. They will have no difficulty in finding one in which the English is above suspicion. Several of those which we have examined are wholly free from this defect.